

Long Island Senior Softball Association

Directors' Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Pellechi.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Knights hosted the meeting and provided all refreshments. Several comments were received about the "change of pace" food offering of bagels rather than donuts, but we will not "name names". Thank you.

Several people were cited in our Moment of Silence. Sam Sapienza noted that John Dibiase, a Suffolk player, had recently passed away. Wayne of the Bees' sister also passed away a short time ago. Tim Shanlery of the Cougars reported that his brother-in-law, Charles Grignon, has been re-diagnosed with cancer, and we learned that Rich Coy is dealing with some heart issues currently. Everyone in LISSA wishes Rich our very best and the speediest recovery possible.

All sixteen teams were represented and present at the meeting.

Jeff advised that the minutes of the February meeting are posted on the LISSA website, but the minutes were not read.

A Treasurer's report was provided by Jim W noting that we had \$8,856 in the bank as of February 28, 2026.

Agenda topics –

Topic 1 – Dennis Ohl, our Chief Umpire, introduced himself to the managers and reported that there were no USA Softball level rules changes to discuss for the coming season. Dennis also asked us to inform him promptly of rainouts (Dennis' phone number is 516-234-1272) and cancellations, and he asked for our feedback on the umpires, based on our own game experiences.

Topic 2 – Our rainout procedures were reviewed once again, and managers were reminded that the home team managers are responsible for informing the visiting team manager and Dennis O about rainouts as early as possible on game days. Brian Edwards will assume the role of "Rainout Coordinator" for the 2026 season, so please inform Brian via text message at 516-606-4217 before 8:00 am of any cancellations as well.

Topic 3 – The All-Star Game will be held on Tuesday July 7 at Eisenhower Park, with Thursday July 9 available as the rain date. This year, LISSA will arrange for food trucks, for which tickets can be pre-purchased, to provide food and beverages (non-alcoholic) at the All-Star Game.

Topic 4 – Jeff Steinberg advised the Board regarding the status of the Playing Rules review and rewrite that has been in progress for several months. Committee members Larry Prosky, Rich Coy, Jimmy

O’Gara, Charlie Fiorentine and Tom Natta were thanked for their commitment and dedication to this multi-month, critical process. Jeff highlighted the most significant additions or revisions to our playing rules for the Board, and noted that the proposed Playing Rules will be posted to the LISSA website within a few days. Every manager should read the Rules carefully, discuss these with their teammates as they deem appropriate, and come to the April 15 meeting planned to vote for the adoption of the rules as proposed, or to note any objections they might have. Our goal from the start of the process has been to have the Playing Rules finalized and in place for the commencement of the 2026 season, which starts on April 28. Dave G of the Vikings raised a question about our recently approved voting procedures (see the new ByLaws) which provides for voting by BOTH the Board (i.e., the 16 managers) as well as the Executive Board (7 elected Executive Board members) on many matters, including the playing rules. Brief discussion followed to clarify the intent of our voting procedures.

Topic 5 – As previously discussed, our combined Hall of Fame/Awards luncheon will be in the fall, and planning is already underway. LISSA representatives recently visited the Stewart Manor Country Club to consider that venue as an option, and a visit will be scheduled at our long-time venue, Verdi’s, so a fair comparison can be made and presented to the Board.

Topic 6 – Permits and insurance documents were discussed, and Joe P noted that the Eisenhower Park permit has not yet been received. Joe also noted several dates that various fields our league uses will be unavailable, and Joe will consider this information proactively when developing our schedule for 2026. Managers were reminded to always bring the insurance documents to games, and managers of TOH teams were reminded that letters need to be sent to Marisa Devito in order to receive \$500 plus umpire fees available to TOH teams. Joe also noted that we have additional permits for certain fields we do NOT use for league games at Baldwin Orange and at Newbridge Park, if teams need field space for practices.

Topic 7 – Managers were reminded that rosters for the 2026 season are due on April 15, 2026, and these documents should be brought to the League meeting that same day.

Topic 8 – Mike Callahan provided an update on the status of our website, and his learnings since taking over the role of Website Coordinator for LISSA. Mike advised that several changes and updates are underway already. Mike will also handle the reporting of scores/standings updates, so home team managers should always report their scores to Mike C at 516-216-3247 promptly after the completion of their games. Mike also asked managers and any LISSA players to provide news items that we would deem worthy of inclusion in the News section of the site.

Topic 9 – Opening day will be Tuesday April 28. As we now have four divisions of four teams each, we will be able to schedule common bye dates in every division, and hopefully avoid Monday make-up dates as much as possible. We have some flexibility in the schedule now, and all present agreed to move our Tournament dates to September 1 and September 3 (Labor Day is Monday September 7) since we do have more timing flexibility and there will also be no need for 4 vs 5 play-in games as the league is presently aligned. Joe expects to complete the schedule in the next two weeks or so, so the 2026 schedules should be available on the website well in advance of Opening Day.

New Business Item 1 – Ken Passante reported on the annual Wounded Warriors game which will take place on Saturday June 13 in Center Moriches. This event raises substantial money for a great cause, and Ken always fields a team of LISSA players to play against the Warriors. Anyone interested in playing or contributing to a great cause should reach out to Ken P.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30am. Our next meeting will be on April 15 at Allen Park and the Tigers will be our hosts. Some of us are expecting donuts again, so please take note of this.